(c) the measures being taken to encourage technical education in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand; and

(d) whether it is a fact that departmental hindrances and discriminatory inspection exercises are obstacles in opening of medical colleges and dental colleges in Hindi speaking States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) In order to mitigate regional disparities in technical education, the Government has made provisions for reservation of seats in degree and diploma level technical courses for States/UTs lacking such facilities in other States/UTs where such facilities are available on an adequate scale. Besides, to promote the establishment of new institutions in the North Eastern states, AICTE has relaxed certain norms for laid down approval of new technical institutions.

(b) The total intake approved by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) in engineering institutions for the year 2007-08 as on November 20, 2007 in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra is 47.7% of the total approved intake in the country.

(c) 238 new engineering institutions have been approved by the AICTE during 2007-08 in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

(d) No, Sir.

Learning level of students in Government schools

334. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether NCERT has conducted a survey on student's learning levels in Government schools across the country;

(b) if so, the details of findings of the survey;

(c) whether the teaching system in Government schools have been found to be the most irresponsible;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government proposes to take some concrete steps to improve education system in Government schools across the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) The National Council of Educational Research and Training has conducted a learning achievement survey at Class-V, in 33 States and Union Territories covering 6828 schools and 84332 students, in 2006-07. The survey has indicated a mean achievement score of 60.31% in Language, 48.46% in Mathematics and 52.19% in Environmental Studies.

(c) to (e) Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, several activities have been undertaken to improve the quality of elementary education. This includes recruitment of 8.32 lakh additional teachers to improve the pupil teacher ratio, in-service training of teachers for a period of 20 days every year, free distribution of textbooks for primary and upper primary classes to about

6.5 crore SC, ST and girl students, regular academic support to primary and upper primary schools through 6395 Block Resource Centres and 68352 Cluster Resource Centres and regular evaluation of students.

Reforms in education system

335. SHRI ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has expressed that the country's education system urgently required investment and reforms;

(b) if so, whether a decision has been taken to dub the National Education Plan during the Eleventh Plan period;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the initiatives taken by Government to modernise the education system in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) In the XIth Plan as approved by the National Development Council, Plan allocation for the Ministry of Human Resource Development has been raised to Rs. 269873 crores as compared to the actual expenditure of about Rs. 58820 crores during Xth Plan which is about 4.5 times increase over the Xth Plan. The XIth Plan envisages the following new initiatives:—

(i) A centrally sponsored for universalisation of access to and improvement of quality of education at secondary stage (SUCCESS) with the objective to make secondary education of good quality available, accessible and affordable to all young persons by providing a secondary school within five kilometres of every habitation.

(ii) Rapid up gradation of 15,000 Upper Primary Schools to Secondary Schools and expansion of intake capacity in 44,000 existing Secondary Schools;

(iii) Establishment of 6000 high quality model schools at block level to serve as benchmarks for excellence in secondary schooling. About 3500 of these will be public-funded schools while 2500 would be through public-private partnership;

(iv) Provision for laboratories/libraries and also strengthening of the existing facilities available;

(v) Continuos teacher training;

(vi) Provision for hostels and residential schools for girls; and

(vii) A more liberal approach on the part of State Government on allowing private schools to be set up to meet the large unmet demand for quality education.

Other initiatives for modernising Higher Education include—

(i) 30 new Central Universities (CUs)—16 CUs one each in uncovered States and 14 CUs aiming at World-class Standards;